

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the office action mailed May 19, 2005 and supplemental to the response dated February 24, 2005. Claims 34-122 were pending in the application. Claims 34, 71, 76, 77, 119, 120, 121, and 122 have been amended. Claims 123-138 have been added. No claims have been canceled by this response. Therefore, claims 34-138 are pending in the application and submitted for reconsideration. Consideration of the subject application on the merits is respectfully requested in light of the election and amendments above, and the comments that follow.

Additionally, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Morgan and SPE Thomas for their comments and suggestions in the personal interview held August 11, 2005.

Support for the present claim amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following portions of the disclosure: page 7, lines 5-24 (claims 121, 122); page 10, lines 4-11 (claims 71, 76, 125-127, 134, 137); page 16, line 23 to page 20 (claims 34, 77, 119, 120, 123, 124, 128, 129, 131, 132), line 31; page 23, lines 1-7 (claim 136); page 24, lines 30-34 (claim 130); and page 28, line 26 to page 29, line 8 (claims 71, 134, 135).

This amendment adds, changes or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

RESTRICTION

In the official action of May 19, 2005, the Examiner required election between the following species:

Claims 42 and 44;

Claims 48 and 52;

Claims 56-60;

Claims 72 and 73;

Claims 91 and 95; and

Claims 99,100,102 and 103.

This requirement is respectfully traversed as discussed in the personal interview. Section 803 of the MPEP states that requirements for an appropriate restriction requirement or election of species:

There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions:

(A) The inventions must be independent (see MPEP § 802.01, § 806.04, § 808.01) or distinct as claimed (see MPEP § 806.05 - § 806.05(i)); and

(B) There must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is required (see MPEP § 803.02, § 806.04(a) - § 806.04(i), § 808.01(a), and § 808.02). (emphasis added).

The claims have already been examined on the merits, indicating a lack of serious burden on the examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests that the election of species set forth in the Official Action of May 19, 2005 be withdrawn and the present application examined in its entirety.

Should the requirement for election be maintained, the following claims are pending and subject to examination on the merits: 34-43, 45-51, 53-55, 60-72, 74-94, 96-98, 101, and 103-120. Claims 44, 52, 56, 59, 73, 95, 99, 100 and 102 presently correspond to non-elected species.

§ 103 REJECTIONS

In the Official Action dated May 18, 2004, claims 34-120 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over various combinations of U.S. Patent No. 4,803,625 to Fu et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,838,275 to Lee, U.S. Patent No. 5,339,821 to Fujimoto, U.S. Patent No. 5,390,238 to Kirk et al., and U.S. 5,019,974 to Beckers. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant notes the arguments submitted in the response dated February 24, 2005 have never been considered. These arguments are hereby incorporated by reference and Applicant respectfully requests that these arguments be considered by the Examiner. Additionally, the claims have been amended to further clarify the claimed inventions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, a favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

PATTON BOGGS L.L.P.

By: 

Michele V. Frank

Registration No. 37,028

**8484 Westpark Dr.
Suite 900
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 744-8000 (phone)
(703) 744-8001 (fax)
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